

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-55 Building Date: c. 1924  
Building Name: Murphy Building  
Location: 3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, Maryland  
Private/Commercial/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description

3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue is a one story brick commercial block with a rectangular plan and a horizontal parapet surmounted by a metal crown molded cornice concealing a rear (south) sloping shed roof. Below the cornice is a facade-wide unadorned entablature. The main (north) facade is divided into two storefronts. The east storefront has a metal clad glass entry door at left (east) and a two-part plate glass display window on a brick base at right (west). Surrounding the door and display window below the entablature is painted vertical wood siding. The west storefront has a centered metal clad glass entry door flanked by large plate glass display windows on brick bases. The storefront is sheltered by a canvas awning. Above each storefront is a non-historic sign. Although each storefront has been altered with incompatible windows, doors and modern signage, the plan and size of the storefronts and surmounting cornice appear to be original. The scale and relationship to the streetscape are consistent with other small commercial blocks along Rhode Island Avenue and 34th Street.

Significance

The small commercial building at 3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, Lot 3, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier) contributes to the early 20th century character of the downtown Mt. Rainier survey area. The straightforward building is virtually unadorned and relies on a molded cornice with a plain entablature and large display windows for its visual interest. Although it has been altered with unsympathetic materials, the building retains its original scale and storefront use. Lot 3 in Block 1 was originally sold by James C. and Blanche R. Rogers in 1922. The lot changed hands several times that year before it was acquired by Washington C. and Lettie H. Murphy. The Murphys apparently erected the present building by 1924 when assessment records first indicate an improvement valued at \$2,000.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Murphy Buildingand/or common 3229 - 3231 Rhode Island Avenue

## 2. Location

street & number 3229 - 3231 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1)    not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier    vicinity of    congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> In process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jay K. Yustreet & number 8348 Terra Grande Avenue telephone no.:   city, town Springfield state and zip code Virginia 22153

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse    liber 5582street & number Main Street    folio 495city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plandate 1981    federal    state X county    local   depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 401city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

## 7. Description

Survey No.P.G.#68-55

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue is a one story brick commercial block with a rectangular plan and a horizontal parapet surmounted by a metal crown molded cornice concealing a rear (south) sloping shed roof. (See Slide #122.) Below the cornice is a facade-wide unadorned entablature. The main (north) facade is divided into two storefronts. The east storefront has a metal clad glass entry door at left (east) and a two-part plate glass display window on a brick base at right (west). Surrounding the door and display window below the entablature is painted vertical wood siding. The west storefront has a centered metal clad glass entry door flanked by large plate glass display windows on brick bases. The storefront is sheltered by a canvas awning.

Above each storefront is a non-historic sign. Although each storefront has been altered with incompatible windows, doors and modern signage, the plan and size of the storefronts and surmounting cornice appear to be original. The scale and relationship to the streetscape are consistent with other small commercial blocks along Rhode Island Avenue and 34th Street.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#68-55

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1924

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### CONTRIBUTING

The small commercial building at 3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, Lot 3, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier) contributes to the early 20th century character of the downtown Mt. Rainier survey area. The straightforward building is virtually unadorned and relies on a molded cornice with a plain entablature and large display windows for its visual interest. Although it has been altered with unsympathetic materials, the building retains its original scale and storefront use.

Lot 3 in Block 1 was originally sold by James C. and Blanche R. Rogers in 1922.<sup>2</sup> The lot changed hands several times that year before it was acquired by Washington C. and Lettie H. Murphy (see Chain of Title). The Murphys apparently erected the present building by 1924 when assessment records first indicate an improvement valued at \$2,000.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Prince George's County Land Records, 179:203.

<sup>2</sup> Prince George's County Assessments, E.D. 17, 1923-1926, p. 162.

Survey No. P.G.#68-55

## 10. Geographical Data

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

**11. Form Prepared By**

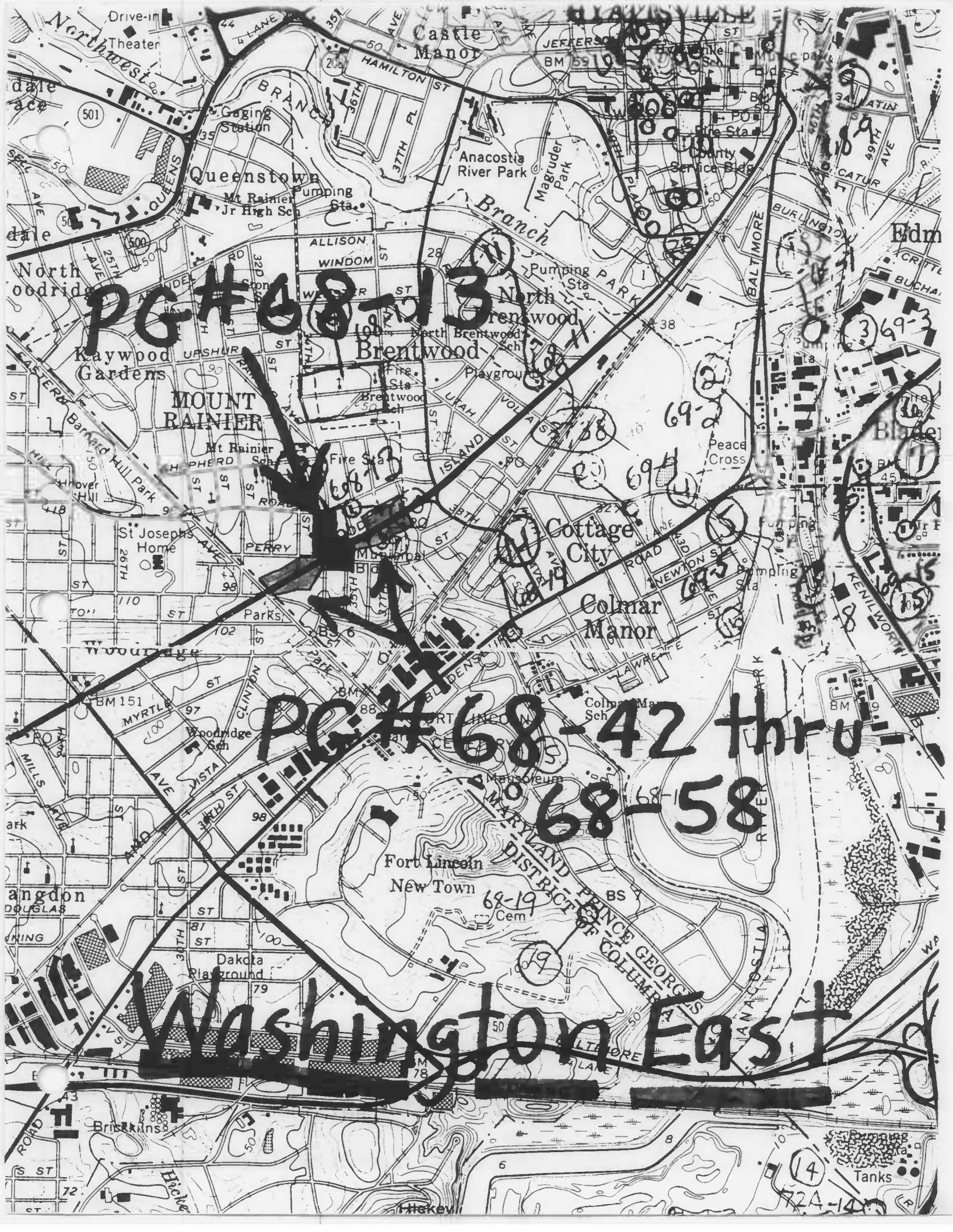
city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title  
P.G. 68-55  
3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue

5582:495 2 September 1965 Deed	Charles J. Saglinbene to Jay K. and Sun Im Yu. Grantor conveys Lot 3 in Block 1, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier. Plat recorded BDS1:48. Same obtained from Thelma M. Lee, et al, 9 August 1972, 4121:667.
4121:667 9 August 1972 Deed	Thelma M. Lee, Jean M. Foster and Joseph S. Cullins, Jr., representative of Francis Hilda Murphy, deceased, devises of Washington Clayton Murphy to Charles J. Saglinbene. Grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1. Same obtained from Frank M. and Grace R. Coward, 28 November 1922, 190:140.
190:140 28 November 1922 Deed	Frank M. and Grace R. Coward to Washington Clayton and Lettie H. Murphy. Grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1. Same obtained from Annie H. Bernabo, 24 October 1922, 189:202.
189:202 24 October 1922 Deed	Annie H. Bernabo to Frank M. Coward. Grantor conveys Lot 3 in Block 1. Same obtained from James C. and Blanche R. Rogers, 10 May 1922, 179:203.
179:203 10 May 1922 Deed	James C. and Blanche R. Rogers to Annie H. Bernabo. Grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1. To clear title, this deed is made.





PG#68-13

PG#68-42 thru  
68-58

Washington East



# HOWARD VIDEO

3229  
\$1<sup>00</sup> PER NIGHT

S  
A  
N  
D  
W  
I  
C  
H  
E  
S

52 free  
RENTALS  
PER YEAR

VCR  
REPAIR  
WE REPAIR ALL MODELS

UNITED

UNITED



Box #68-55

Murphy Building  
3229-3231 Rhode Island  
Prince George's Co, MD  
Howard Berger  
Oct 1987

Neg. MD Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD